

Central Link

He karere tā te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi
News from the Stratford District Council

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

What does Puanga mean to you? Stratford street flag competition for youth is open!

Stratford District Council is once again inviting tamariki and rangatahi to design street flags that reflect what Puanga means to them. The winning designs will fly down Stratford's main street in the lead-up to Puanga celebrations in June!

Amy Kingston, Acting Community Development Manager says, "Puanga is Taranaki's Māori New Year, known as Matariki across much of the motu. We love to see how young people view Puanga and celebrate its meaning in a fun and creative way."

The competition is open to those aged from 5 to 18 years old. Entry forms are available at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre or Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga

Entries close on Wednesday 29 May.

Save the date! On the evening of Thursday 27 June, we'll be celebrating Puanga with a GLOWtastic community event. Watch this space for details!

Nominate your local Stratford champions!

The Stratford district is home to people that put their hand up for the community day in and day out, and Stratford District Council (SDC) wants to know who they are. Nominations for SDC's annual Citizen and Youth Citizen Awards are now open and close on Friday 31 May 2024.

Nominating local champions for these awards is a long-standing tradition for the Stratford district. The awards identify people in our community who have shown leadership, inspiration, or dedication to a cause, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our district.

Mayor Neil Volzke says, "The people that make up this community are what makes Stratford a special place to live, work and play. It's no surprise that when you ask someone what they love about the district, the most common answer is 'the people.'"

"It's heartening to receive quality nominations year on year, and inspiring to learn about our younger community members doing their bit too. This gives me confidence that our citizen awards will continue to showcase the best aspects of our community for decades to come."

"I encourage everyone to please take the time to nominate those doing great things in our district."

Successful recipients will be announced in July 2024, with a celebration ceremony held early August.



2023 winner spotlight!

If you've met Allen Topless, you'll understand why he's one of our 2023 Citizens Award recipients. His kindness and unwavering dedication to the Makahu community has been on show since moving to the Stratford district in 1974. Allen and his wife Sylvia have "retired" (if you can call it that) to Toko now, but remain a huge part of the Makahu family. Kei runga noa atu koe! Outstanding work, Allen!

Nomination forms for both the 2024 Citizen Award and Youth Citizen Award (recognising our 12-24 year old champions) are available online at Stratford.govt.nz/CitizenAwards or printed copies can be picked up at Council's Service Centre, the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre and Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre.



Agrecovery FREE large drum recycling collection starts 1 May!

Make your empty drums and IBCs go another round! Agrecovery has a large drum (61 - 1,000 litres) recycling collection programme running across Aotearoa.

Check to see if your drums are eligible to be recycled at Agrecovery.co.nz. Subscribe for your FREE membership online and then book on the website for your on-property collection.

Safe new speed limits for district SCHOOL zones from Monday 6 May



Stratford District Council (SDC) is lowering the speed zones around ten local schools from Monday 6 May 2024 to make it safer for tamariki and rangatahi to get to their kura and back home again.

Stephen Bowden, SDC Roding Asset Manager, says setting lower speed limits around schools creates a safer environment for children, school staff, and families, and can help to build confidence in kids that want to start biking and walking to schools.

"It might seem like a bit of an inconvenience to motorists, but it'll have a big positive impact on children. We've heard from parents who aren't confident letting their kids try biking or scootering to school, and lowering speed limits around kura can help to give a bit of reassurance. As a driver, I think that's worth an extra moment in the car," says Stephen.

The introduction of new school zone speed limits was adopted by SDC in 2023 and came after consultation with the school communities involved, affected residents, and the wider community as part of council's Interim Speed Management Plan consultation.

The fixed school zone speed limits from Monday 6 May 2024 are:

- Avon School - 30km/h (from 50km/h)
- Midhirst School, Erin Street and Denmark Terrace - 30km/h (from 50km/h)
- Stratford Primary School - 30km/h (from 40km/h variable)
- Stratford High School - 30km/h (from 50km/h)
- St Joseph's Primary School - 30km/h (from 50km/h)
- St Mary's Diocesan School, Pembroke Road West frontage - 30km/h (from 50km/h)
- Pembroke School, along the crossroad approaches - 60km/h (from 100km/h)
- Makahu School, Mangaehu Road frontage - 30km/h (from 100km/h)
- Marco School, Marco Road frontage - 60km/h (from 100km/h)
- Ngaere School, Cheal Road frontage - 60km/h (from 100km/h)

The new speed limits are fixed, meaning that drivers will need to observe the limits 24 hours a day. This keeps school students, staff, and families safe on the streets outside of drop-off and pickup times.

"Many families are taking advantage of school playgrounds and facilities outside of school hours and it's great to know that these community spaces will be a little safer 24/7," says Stephen.

Variable speed limits, which lower speeds during school drop-off and pickup times only, would have come at a much higher cost for ratepayers, with the price for a single electronic variable speed sign, reaching up to \$10,000.

Councillors made the decision to move ahead with fixed school zone speed limits last year before the change in government. Recently, the coalition government announced their intention to have a new Land Transport Rule in place by the end of 2024 that may make it a requirement to have variable speed limits in place for school zones. The government will seek public submissions later this year and council will consider any implications for Stratford district when more information becomes available.



Library and Visitor Information
Phone 06 765 5403
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm
Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

Transfer Station
Phone 06 765 8500
Monday – Friday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Wednesday 10.00am – 1.00pm
Saturday & Sunday 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
Phone 06 765 6275
Monday – Friday 6.00am – 6.30pm
Saturday 7.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday and Public Holidays
10.00am – 5.00pm

Glockenspiel
Performs Daily at 10.00am, 1.00pm,
3.00pm and 7.00pm
1 May 2024